



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2007

Contact:
Lisa Capone
(617) 626-1119
Robert Keough
(617) 626-1109

Patrick Administration Awards Land Protection Grants to Help Land Trusts and Environmental Groups Protect Over 205 Acres

BOSTON – Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles today announced \$442,020 in FY 2008 Conservation Partnership Grants that will enable eight non-profit organizations to preserve more than 205 acres of open space from Cape Cod to the Pioneer Valley.

“Land trusts and other non-profit groups are essential partners in our efforts to preserve the Commonwealth’s natural and agricultural landscapes,” Secretary Bowles said. “The grants we are awarding today are investments by the state that will help our partners preserve more than 200 acres of land and make it available for the public to enjoy forever. Governor Patrick has made an unprecedented commitment to land protection, and we are making good on that commitment today.”

The FY 2008 grants announced today exceed the total amount spent by the Conservation Partnership program since its creation by the Legislature in 2002. Coming on the heels of \$14 million in municipal parks and open space grants awarded by the Patrick Administration during the last two weeks, the Conservation Partnership Grants are the latest funds awarded to fulfill Governor Patrick’s goal of investing at least \$50 million annually in land conservation over the next five years.

Secretary Bowles also announced that EEA is accepting proposals for a second round of FY 2008 Conservation Partnership Grants. The deadline for applications is 3 p.m., January 9, 2008. (See <http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/conservation/default.htm> for details.)

-more-

Conservation Partnership Grants are designed to help non-profit organizations purchase land or interests in land (such as conservation restrictions) for conservation or recreation. Grant recipients must convey a perpetual conservation restriction to either the community where a project exists or to a state agency, and protected property must be open to the public. This year's grant awards were limited to \$60,000 or no more than half the total project cost.

EEA's Division of Conservation Services evaluated and selected proposed projects based on their ability to conserve biodiversity, protect water quality, promote recreation, and preserve working farms and forests.

The nine awards announced today include:

Arlington Land Trust - Elizabeth Island, Arlington: \$60,000

- 2 acres
- This grant supports the acquisition of Elizabeth Island located in Spy Pond - a 103-acre Great Pond. The migratory bird populations on Spy Pond number more than 120 species, some of which nest on Elizabeth Island. The pond abuts the Minuteman Bikeway, and the island is entirely within the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's (NHESP) BioMap supporting habitat. BioMap promotes strategic land protection by identifying areas of the Commonwealth most in need of protection to preserve the native biodiversity of Massachusetts.

Barnstable Land Trust - Baker Property, Barnstable: \$60,000

- 5 acres
- This acquisition was identified as a top priority by Barnstable's Open Space Task force. It will help protect the Little River, which bisects this parcel, and provide an important wildlife and recreational link to an additional 800-acres of open space.

Dudley Conservation Land Trust – Tufts Branch Valley Parcel, Dudley: \$60,000

- 81 acres
- This acquisition will create two new public access points for recreational use and is a central piece of the town's 600-acre protected open space corridor.

Greater Worcester Land Trust - Black Oak Savannah Link, Worcester: \$45,000

- 0.74 acres
- This acquisition will link the Worcester Conservation Commission's Crow Hill property with the Ecotarium's Worcester Campus. The project will protect an important recreational and wildlife corridor and allow for creation of a new public access point to the properties.

The Kestrel Trust - Lake Warner Conservation Area, North Hadley: \$55,220

- 5.7 acres
- The acquisition of this property, located on the bank of Lake Warner, will allow increased public access to the lake and nearby Mount Warner.

-more-

Massachusetts Audubon Society - Kibbe Farm, Hampden: \$60,000

- 62 acres
- This property is part of a greenway corridor abutting over 400 acres of open space and is located within a designated NHESP priority habitat.

Massachusetts Audubon Society - Green Phase II, Spencer: \$23,350

- 4.2 acres
- This acquisition will provide additional protection to Audubon's Burncoat Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and is adjacent to a 59-acre property purchased by Town of Spencer with Self Help grant funding in FY 2006.

The Trustees of Reservations - Peaked Mountain's Elliott Woods, Monson: \$60,000

- 37 acres
- This property lies entirely within NHESP BioMap supporting habitat (see BioMap description under Arlington Land Trust above), and links to more than 2,000 contiguous acres of open space, including the adjacent 300-acre Peaked Mountain Reservation.

Wareham Land Trust - Marks Cove Conservation Project, Wareham: \$18,450

- 8.14 acres
- This property is located within a designated NHESP priority habitat and lies over the Plymouth-Carver sole source aquifer.

###